

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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EB-11 EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NEA-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SWF-02

OMB-01 AEC-11 DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INT-08 L-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD TRADE COMMITTEE (TC) PREPARATIONS FOR FEB. 27-28
MEETING

REFS: A) USOECD 0771

B) USOECD 2235

C) USOECD 1783

D) TC/A (74)1

1. SUMMARY. TCWP MET BRIEFLY FEB. 13 TO DISCUSS FINAL
ARRANGEMENTS FOR TC MEEGING FEB. 27-28. GROUP AGREED THAT
SECRETARIAT AND TCWP CHAIRMAN SHOULD URGE TC CHAIRMAN
HERMES TO ORGANIZE TC MEETING WITH A VIEW TO DEVOTING ALL
OF FIRST DAY AND FIRST HALF OF SECOND DAY TO TWO MAJOR ITEMS
OF AGENDA, I.E. REPERCUSSIONS OF OIL SITUATION ON INTERNATIONAL
TRADE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR TRADE POLICY (REFTELS) AND
GOVERNMENT PURCHASING. END SUMMARY.

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2. AS REQUESTED, US DEL EXPLAINED THAT US REP TO TC

(RENNER) WOULD HAVE TO DEPART PARIS FOR WASHINGTON AFTER MORNING SESSION FEB. 28 TO PARTICIPATE IN PREPARATIONS FOR PRESENTATION OF US TRADE BILL TO SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, RENNER PROPOSED THAT MORNING SESSION FEB. 27 BE DEVOTED TO INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF TRADE POLICY IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM ENERGY SITUATION, AFTERNOON SESSION TO GOVERNMENT PURCHASING AND MORNING SESSION FEB. 28 TO SAFEGUARDS, GOVERNMENT PURCHASING AND RESUMPTION, IF NECESSARY, OF PRECEDING MORNING DISCUSSION. ALL DELS WHO SPOKE FAVORED SIGNIFICANT EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE US REP BUT FELT MORNING SESSION FEB. 27 WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT FOR INFORMAL, OFF-RECORD DISCUSSION AND THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO DIVIDE THAT DISCUSSION INTO TWO PARTS. OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF DELS FELT THAT MOST IMPORTANT TASK OF TC MEETING WAS TO EXAMINE IMPLICATIONS FOR TRADE POLICY OF ENERGY SITUATION, WITH GOVERNMENT PURCHASING A DISTANT SECOND IN TERMS OF PRIORITY. STRONG SUPPORT EMERGED TO URGE TC CHAIRMAN HERMES TO ORGANIZE MEETING WITH VIEW TO DEVOTING FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF IT TO TWO MAJOR ITEMS WITH LIKELIHOOD THAT INFORMAL DISCUSSION WOULD TAKE UP THREE QUARTERS OF FIRST DAY AND GOVERNMENT PURCHASING REMAINING QUARTER OF FIRST DAY PLUS ALL OR MORNING SESSION OF SECOND DAY IF NECESSARY. MISSION BELIEVES THESE ARRANGEMENTS, IF ACCEPTABLE TO HERMES AND OTHER TC REPS, ARE ABOUT BEST US CAN HOPE FOR GIVEN STRENGTH OF ATTRACTION OF ENERGY SITUATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR TRADE POLICY IN MINDS OF TRADE POLICY OFFICIALS AND RELATIVE DECLINE IN URGENCY WITH WHICH GOVERNMENT PURCHASING IS VIEWED SINCE LAST TC MEETING. ON LATTER POINT, EC COMMISSIONER DEL SAID EC WOULD DO ITS BEST TO CONTRIBUTE TO DISCUSSION OF GOVERNMENT PURCHASING BUT DOUBTED THAT HIS TC REP WOULD "BE ABLE TO SAY VERY MUCH". THIS SENTIMENT SEEMED TO BE SHARED BY SEVERAL OTHER DELS ALTHOUGH BOTH CANADIAN AND SWISS DELS REAFFIRMED THE HIGH PRIORITY THEIR AUTHORITIES ATTACHED TO HAVING THOROUGH, SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF GOVERNMENT PURCHASING BY TC AT FORTHCOMING MEETING. TCWP CHAIRMAN (STROMAYER) WILL MAKE FORCEFUL PRESENTATION OF US POINT OF VIEW WHEN HE BRIEFS HERMES IN BONN FEB. 20.

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3. CONSENSUS OF GROUP WAS THAT THERE WOULD BE VERY LITTLE TIME AT MEETING FOR EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF ITEM ON SAFEGUARDS AND SECTORAL ADJUSTMENT. NONETHELESS, PREVALENT FEELING WAS THAT SHOULD DISCUSSION OF TWO MAJOR ITEMS ON AGENDA BE SHORTER THAN NOW SEEMS LIKELY, TC REPS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS SAFEGUARDS AS ITEM OF THIRD HIGHEST PRIORITY.

4. CURRENT EXPECTATION IS THAT TC WILL CONSIDER
ALL REMAINING ITEMS ON AGENDA (REF D) IN
AFTERNOON SESSION FEB. 28. OF THOSE ITEMS, ONLY THE
QUESTIONS OF ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR LDC TRADE AND
ACTIVITIES OF OECD GROUP ON PREFERENCES ARE EXPECTED TO
EVOKE MORE THAN TOKEN DISCUSSION.

5. ELECTIONS. EXPECTATION IS THAT HERMES, LANGUETIN
AND MIYAZAKE WILL BE REELECTED AT TC BUREAU.
BROWN

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